

has progressed remarkably since Finsen's time. Unfortunately, the basic knowledge of physics has not been instilled so that light unsuited for the purpose is utilized and studies based on one zone of light, as for example the near ultraviolet of Finsen, is quoted in the advice of the persons utilizing an incandescent bulb whose emission factors are as different from that of the voltaic arc of Finsen as the pharmacology of strychnine is from that of morphine. The knowledge of the history of phototherapy thus finds a link with practical therapeutics. One must know what has gone before. One must engage in the study of the basic principles. One must get to the root of the matter. The historical approach is a valuable one in this respect.

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#### BOOK REVIEW

Joannes Baptista Canano, 1515-1578, Girolamo da Carpi, 1501-1556. *Musculorum humani corporis picturata dissectio* (Ferrara, 1541?). Facsimile edition, annotated by Harvey Cushing and Edward C. Streeter. 98 pp. sm. 40. Florence, R. Lier & Co., 1925.

This volume is the fourth of a series of facsimile reprints of rare medical texts known as "Monumenta medica," published by Lier of Florence, under the general editorship of Professor Henry E. Sigerist (Leipzig). As Cushing observes, in his introduction, it belongs, with the *Fabulae anatomicae* sex of Vesalius (1538) and the *Christianismi Restitutio* of Servetus (1553), in a unique trio of medical classics which, through destruction by fire, throttling at birth or defacement by wear and tear of time, are "practically out of the reach of collectors." Only two copies of the Vesalian tables exist, and only three of the Servetus. Only one of the Canano pamphlet (that in the Dresden Library) was actually known to Choulant, although he mentions two others. Haller's copy, acquired from Viscount Bute's library, disappeared with the sale and dispersal of his books. Arnold Klebs has located seven copies of Canano in libraries at Pavia, Milan, Padua, Ferrara, Dresden, Berlin and London (British Museum), three privately owned by Professor V. Ducceschi (Padua), Pro-

fessor Harvey Cushing (Boston) and Dr. Leroy Crummer (Omaha) and one on sale at a shop in the Via del Babuino (Rome), making eleven in all. The interest of this book and the justification for its reprinting lies in the simple fact that between the appearance of the six anatomical tables of Vesalius (1538) and the publication of the *Fabrica* (1543), Canano, about 1541-2, published some 26 copperplate engravings of the myology and osteology of the arm and forearm which, in the words of Choulant, constitute "an attempt at lifelike delineation of the muscles, with an exactitude hitherto unknown." These plates, executed from drawings by the Ferrarese painter, Girolamo da Carpi, and intended as the first fasciculus of a projected anatomical treatise, show, as Streeter points out, the first accurate delineations of the palmaris brevis, the flexor brevis pollicis, the adductor minimi digiti and the interossei muscles. It is known that Vesalius, after finishing the *Fabrica* at Padua on August 1, 1542, and the *Epitome* on August 13, went down to Ferrara, presumably to see his brother Francis, who was Canano's assistant. Meeting between the two anatomists was thus inevitable. It is quite consistent with what we know of the overweening nature of Vesalius that he should have shown Canano the proofs of the wood-cuts in his own forthcoming work, whether genially or scornfully is beyond our ken. In any event, Canano, probably overwhelmed by the splendor and completeness of the larger enterprise, deliberately suppressed his own modest maiden effort, of which only a few copies had so far been circulated among his friends. Through this action, whether it were timorous, despairing, magnanimous or wonderfully decent, the little volume before us became excessively rare. To see these plates for the first time is to feel a pang of regret that so able an anatomist "lost his nerve."

Canano, a man of Greek origin, came of a family or tribe of physicians. No less than eight Canani were lecturers at the University of Ferrara, and of these, five lectured on medicine. Our author himself succeeded his uncle as professor of anatomy at Ferrara at the age of 26 (1541), and had acquired from his grandfather, who was court physician to Matthew Corvinus, first King of Hungary, a splendid collection of medical MSS., de-

scribed by Shakespeare's Dr. Caius, (whom Canano entertained in 1543) as "one of the six major private collections in Italy." Vesalius records that, being in consultation with Canano at Ratisbon in 1546, the latter told him of his discovery of multiple valves in the veins. The matter was sadly muddled by the blundering, if well-meaning, assertions of Amatus Lusitanus, but Canano maintained an obstinate silence. The controversy that ensued was subsequently forgotten. The valves were rediscovered by Fabricius in 1574. Canano's priority over Sylvius (1555), and Estienne (1555) was established by Morgagni (1740) and approved by Haller (1757). Columbus, as usual, tried to steal the *palmaris brevis* from him, but here Canano was valiantly defended by both Eustachius (1552) and Fallopius (1561). In 1552, Canano became physician to Pope Julius III and, in 1555, protomedicus to Duke Alphonso II of Ferrara, with whom he played a great part in the sanitation of estates "stretching half-way across Italy," and in combatting the epidemics of pleuro-pneumonia and plague which raged during 1564-77. Canano died on January 29, 1579. The story of "strange silent man" and the fate of his book has been told with lucidity and charm by our well beloved Streeter, whose painstaking scholarship has long since received the accolade of his teacher, Sudhoff. To realize the historical significance of these wonderful copperplates is a sensation out of all proportion to the moderate price of the reprint. In all the original copies extant, the thin paper is foxed and the printed text, on the opposite side, has come through the engravings. The pictures supplied to Sudhoff by Klebs were obtained as photographs from the Dresden copy by cutting the photos away from the disfiguring background and pasting them on white paper. A terminal essay by Dr. Arnold C. Klebs on the extant copies of Canano completes the attractive volume.

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